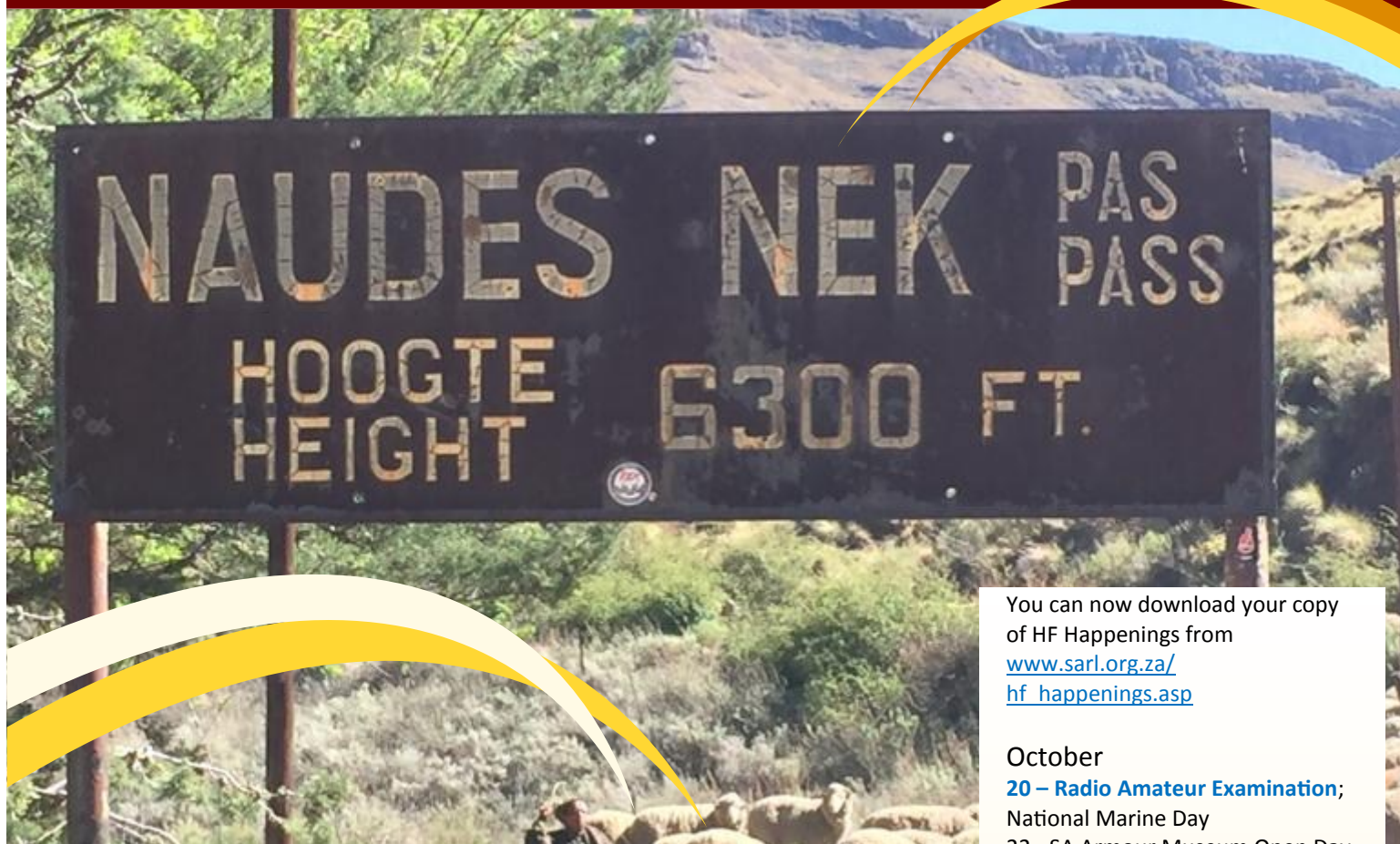


# HF Happenings 725

South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

Volume 14, Issue 48 , the week of 17 October 2016



## Going around Lesotho (on the outside)

On Monday morning 10 October, Carina and I left home and started our trip around the outside of Lesotho - our son Jaco and his wife Heloise have been talking about this for some time, but have not come to the execution yet - so we decided to do it.

We spent our first night in Rhodes at a great self-catering cottage. Tuesday morning we tackled the Naudes Nek Pass (2 576 m asl), the highest mountain pass in South Africa. At the top of the pass, I stopped the car and got out to kiss Carina - have you kissed your wife at 2 576 m asl?

And I am sorry, but my friends from north of the Vaal River who travel on the N3 - Van Reenen IS NOT A PASS!!!

Our second night was spent in Underberg. I made a number of contacts on 40 and 60 metres for the ZS WAGS award from Rhodes and Underberg. Carina and I also did some geocaching - [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

Wednesday morning we continued on the back roads to Escourt and then on to Harrismith via Winterton, Underberg and the Oliviershoek Pass. We spent a couple of days with our children in Harrismith - Jaco and Heloise own the Platberg Backpackers, before returning home via Golden Gate, Clarens, Fouriesburg, Ficksburg and Ladybrand. We did it with a 2 litre diesel Nissan X-Trail.

## DXCC News

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the 2015/2016 operations by E44QX in Palestine for DXCC credit.

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from  
[www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

## October

**20 – Radio Amateur Examination;**  
National Marine Day  
22 - SA Armour Museum Open Day,  
Tempe Military Base  
**25 - Closing date for November  
Radio ZS articles**  
**29 and 30 – CQ WW DX SSB Contest**  
26 Oct to 5 Nov - Crafter's Fair  
Christmas Market, Morleta Park

## November

1 to 4 - Delmas Christmas Market  
2 to 3 - Christmas Country Fair,  
Ballito  
4 to 6 - Cape Classic 380, Montagu  
**5 - RaDAR Challenge;** Elim Wine  
Festival, Overberg; Fanschhoek  
Craft Festival; Pure Boland Mark,  
Worcester; Winterton Street Festival;  
Irene Market  
**6 - PEARS HF Contest**  
11 to 13 - Knysna Timber Festival  
**13 - SARL Youth Net**  
16 to 18 - GWK Cherry Festival,  
Ficksburg

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## EP2A Video

There is a video/slide-show available on the April 2016 EP2A DXpetition to Iran. It is about 41 minutes long on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsPrvtfi3xo>

## Heathkit

Any time Heathkit is mentioned, ears of hams of a certain age perk up. *Electronic Design* argues that manufacturer and aftermarket development kits have taken the place that Heathkit once occupied as the supplier of educational electronics platforms. <http://electronicdesign.com/microcontrollers/have-chip-vendors-taken-over-where-heathkit-left>

## Capacitors

If you are building your own capacitors out of various materials, you might want to measure the dielectric constant. KE9V tweeted this link to a hackaday article on doing just that.

<http://hackaday.com/2016/10/12/measuring-the-dielectric-constant-for-diy-capacitors/>

## Raspberry Pi

We are beginning to see the use of Raspberry Pi computers for the foundation of a number of Amateur Radio projects. *Design News* recently published the history of the Raspberry Pi project [www.designnews.com/author.asp?section\\_id=1386&doc\\_id=281793](http://www.designnews.com/author.asp?section_id=1386&doc_id=281793).

## An RFI-free switching power supply

An RFI-free switching power supply is the goal of a recently triply oversubscribed Kickstarter project. Who would have thought there would be such demand for a board level +/- 15 volt power supply module?

[www.kickstarter.com/projects/1684029908/the-silent-switcher-mains-free-low-noise-15v-and-5v](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1684029908/the-silent-switcher-mains-free-low-noise-15v-and-5v)

## Data transmission

One terabit per second data transmission via radio waves may be within reach, as researchers at Rice University are using pulses of RF at up to 10 GHz to achieve these data rates. <http://newatlas.com/pulse-based-wireless-one-terabit/45866/>

## African DX

Tanzania, 5H. Chas, NK8O will be active again as 5H3DX from Zinga, Tanzania from 22 October to 12 November. In his spare time he will be active on 80 to 15 metres mainly CW, with some PSK31 and maybe some SSB. QSL via NK8O (direct only), LoTW and eQSL.

Lesotho, 7P8 (Press Release). Gene, K5GS, sent out the following press release [edited]: Pista, HA5AO, arrived in Maseru, Lesotho, on the afternoon of Friday 14 October, with four suitcases weighing over 110 kg of radio equipment and gifts for the orphanages where he is a volunteer. He began setting up the station and antennas on Saturday and will finish on Sunday. The noise levels are S2-3 on the higher bands, but S5-6 on the low bands. He has an appointment on Monday with the Lesotho Communication Authority to pick up the license.

He has written confirmation that a special call sign, 7P8EUDXF, may be issued celebrating 30 years anniversary of "European DX Foundation" (EUDXF). At this time he does not plan to use 7P8AO, just depends on what is actually issued on Monday. He hopes to be on the air starting Monday 17 October, for at least 10 days - look for him on CW, late afternoon and evening/night. Blackouts are frequent, usually 15 minutes to 1 hour. If he unexpectedly disappears without sending QRX or QRT it is possibly due to a blackout. There is Internet access, he will upload logs daily to OQRS on - HA5AO.com - he will operate as much as possible.

He begins working on his humanitarian projects at the orphanages on Tuesday.

Morocco, CN. Look for CN2R to be on the air during the next two CQ WW DX Contests during October and November. The line-up of operators is as follows:



17 to 19 - Sandstone Steam Cherry Festival

**25 - Closing date for December Radio ZS articles**

**26 - West Rand Flea market**

**26 and 27 - CQ WW CW Contest**

## Operating Tip

Submitting Logs Successfully

Many contests are shortening the time between contest end and the log submission deadline. It pays to check the rules to make sure the log deadline has not changed since the last time you entered the contest. In addition, more and more contests are publishing the list of submitted logs on their web site. Get in the habit of checking the 'received logs' pages to make absolutely sure your log was received.

If you have a question about the rules, first, read the rules again. If your question is still unresolved, a polite email to the contest sponsor/director could clear things up in a jiffy.

For example, here is a question I sent to Ed, W0YK, CQ WW RTTY Contest Director, "Hi Ed, in the RTTY contest a couple of weeks ago, there was a station in zone 8 sending zone 11 as the exchange. When asked for his 'CQ zone', he replied with 11; for the CQ WW RTTY Contest, what is the correct number for a station to log? What was sent, or what the correct zone would be?"

Ed wrote back, "In this case, I'd go ahead and log '11' if you think that is what he will have in his log. The log checking will assign multiplier credit based on what the actual multiplier is, not what the station sent. But for cross-checking, it is safer for you to have in your log what he has in his log. If he was insisting on '54', then I'd log

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CQ WW DX SSB Contest (29 and 30 October): Jiri, OK1RI, Zdenek, OK1DSZ, Karel, OK1JKT, Norbert, OM6NM, Vaclav, OK1VVT, Jiri, OK1DO, Petr, OK1FFU, and Jim, W7EJ. Multi-2 entry. QSL via W7EJ. Operators plan to be on before the contest starts, from 19 October.

CQ WW DX CW Contest (26 and 27 November): Jiri, OK1RI, Vit, OK5MM, Karel, OK1JKT, Norbert, OM6NM, Jiri, OK1DO, Vladimir, OK1NY, Martin, OK1HGM, Petr, OK1FFU, and Jim, W7EJ. Multi-2 entry. QSL via W7EJ.

Burkina Faso, XT. Ibrahim Guiero, XT2AGI, is a newly licensee in Ouagadougou and will be active on the air soon. Ibrahim has been tutored by Harald, XT2AW. Harald has sponsored a hex-beam and a Kenwood TS430 to Ibrahim for him to progress further in the hobby. Please be patient with him, but by all means give him a call! QSL via M0OXO direct or via the OQRS.

Guinea Bissau, J5. Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as J5T from Guinea Bissau in November 2016. Operators mentioned are Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, Stefano, IK2HKT, and Mac, JA3USA. The pilot stations are Art, IK7JWY (HF) and Sergio, IK0FTA (6m). Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via I2YSB, direct or the OQRS on their Web page at [www.i2ysb.com/idx](http://www.i2ysb.com/idx). Logs will be posted on LoTW about 6 months after the conclusion of the DXpedition. For news and the forum, see [www.hamradioweb.net](http://www.hamradioweb.net)

Central African Republic, TL. Christian, F4WBN (Team Leader), Rene, F5DUX, Bernard, F9IE and Jean-Louis, TR8JLD will be active as TL0A near Bangui, Central African Republic, between 19 and 28 October. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters, including 60 m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via F4WBN direct only.

Central African Republic, TL. Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as TL8T from Central African Republic in February 2017. Operators mentioned are Alfeo, I1HJT, Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, Stefano, IK2HKT, and Mac, JA3USA. The pilot stations are Art, IK7JWY (HF) and Sergio, IK0FTA (6m). Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via I2YSB, direct or the OQRS on their web page at [www.i2ysb.com/idx](http://www.i2ysb.com/idx). A TL8T needs/wants survey is available on the web page also. Logs will be posted on LoTW about 6 months after the conclusion of the DXpedition. For news and the forum, see [www.hamradioweb.net](http://www.hamradioweb.net)

## African Islands

### IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Sao Tome and Principe, S9. Peter, DL1RPL, Soeren, DL3RKS, Dieter, DL1AWD, Hans, DL1AOB, Rocco, DG5AA and Rich, DK8YY will be active as S9YY from Sao Tome Island, IOTA AF-023, from 8 to 23 October. Activity will be on the HF bands, including 2 meters and 70 cm, using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to DH7WW.

Canary Islands, EE8. Dan, N6MJ, will be active as EE8Z from the Los Chachos Contest Club during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (29 and 30 October) as Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL info TBD. Dan will be on the island between 26 October and 1 November. Activity outside of the contest Dan will sign as EA8/N6MJ. QSL EA8/N6MJ via W6TMD.

Ascension Island, ZD8. Oliver, W6NV will be active again as ZD8W from Ascension Island (AF-003) from 12 October through November, including the CQ WW SSB and CW Contests. He will operate CW and SSB on 160 to 6 metres. QSL via W6NV and LoTW.

Canary Islands, ED8. Salvador, EA7FQB, Al, EA7JR, Cristobal, EA7RU, Pedro, EA7DN, Jose, EA7BJ, Manolo, EA7LL, Jorge, EA7HZ, JORGE, EA8TL and Manuel, EA8DO will be active as ED8W from La Palma Island (AF-004) during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (29 and 30 October) Multi-? entry. QSL via EA8DO.

8, because the robot and log checking will complain if the number is not in the range of 1-40."

An e-mail exchange with the contest director could be more insightful than a dozen email reflector messages for rules interpretation questions.

## Word to the Wise

The Quagi is an antenna for UHF or VHF that combines helpful characteristics of a Yagi with those of a cubical quad antenna <http://n6nb.com/quagi.htm>. It generally consists of a quad-style loop for the reflector and driven elements, with Yagi-style director elements. Wayne, N6NB, originally described an eight-element design in the April 1977 issue of *QST*, followed up by an easy to build 15 element "Long Boom Quagi" in *QST* for February 1978. The quad elements allowed for ease in construction and impedance matching.

## A transistor with a gate size of one nanometre

Molybdenum disulphide was used recently by researchers to create a transistor with a gate size of one nanometre <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/354/6308/99>. The gate was formed out of a single carbon nanotube, and another unconventional material, zirconium dioxide, was used for the channel material. The size reduction reflects a 5 to 1 advantage over what is presumed to be a five nanometre lower limit for silicon transistors, but to be commercially successful, manufacturing process optimization will have to occur, according to an article in *EE Times* [www.eetimes.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=1330619](http://www.eetimes.com/document.asp?doc_id=1330619)



South African CW Watering hole  
7.030 MHz

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Selvagens Islands, CQ9. Carlos, CT1GXC, will be active as CQ9GXC from Selvagens Islands AF-047 between 19 and 25 October. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via his home call sign.

St Helena Island, ZD7 - ZD7VDE Postponed Again! Bill, G0VDE, reports that the opening of St. Helena airport still has "continuing serious problems" and "it is still not possible to land sensible sized aircraft like 737 there."

He states, "The planned flights (in May/June and October by Atlantic Star) have been cancelled. The Comair flights from South Africa have likewise not started. All in all, it is a total mess and the UK government is being accused of building a £250 Million white elephant of an unusable airfield, all due to the strong winds and wind shear! I have had to cancel, re-book and cancel my accommodation - if you read the ZD7 'newsletters' (the St Helena Sentinel and the St Helena Independent) you will see it has been a very sorry story - hotels were encouraged to prepare extra rooms for the coming 'tourist boom' and one has even reportedly gone out of business, because they spent a lot to prepare and have now got no means of recovering their losses!"

Bill states, "So I am afraid I am not going this October either (having had to cancel my May/June trip). I am keeping somewhat up-to-date about the events on my website [www.sthelenadx.com](http://www.sthelenadx.com) - but there is no planned date for the full airport opening so I don't have any certain future date. You may know the boat, the RMS St Helena, was due to retire at the end of July, but it has been kept in operation for about another year as it is obviously the only way of accessing the island. I am looking at the possibility of traveling by the boat, but the problem there is two fold - the cost is at least double the planned cost of flying, and I would have to travel for two weeks and only be able to stay for one week... It is just possible I will take this option, but I am still waiting as I could theoretically fly at quite short notice, should proper flights begin. We therefore have sorry situation and a continuing delay - I will try to keep everyone posted. Maybe the only silver lining is that ZD7 will get rarer and any future visit would be popular!"

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 October 2016

### Illinois QSO Party

17:00 UTC 16 October to 01:00 UTC 17 October

Mode: CW/digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Fixed - high or low; Mobile; Portable; Rover; Non-IL - high or low

Max power: HP: >200 watts; LP: 200 watts

Exchange: IL: RS(T) and County; non-IL: RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO

Multipliers: IL Stations: Each IL county, state, VE province once; IL

Stations: Each DXCC country (max of 5) once; non-IL Stations: Each IL county once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 November 2016

E-mail logs to: [n9jf@arrl.net](mailto:n9jf@arrl.net)

Mail logs to: WIARC, PO Box 3132, Quincy IL 62305-3132, USA

Find rules at: [www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202016%20Rules.pdf](http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202016%20Rules.pdf)

### Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 17 October

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/>

### ARRL School Club Roundup

13:00 UTC 17 October to 23:59 UTC 21 October

Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY/Digital

Bands: All, except 60, 30, 17, 12 m

Classes: Single Op (I); Club/Multi-Op (C); School Club/Group (S)

Max operating hours: 24 hours total; 6 hours out of any 24-hour period with off times of at least 30 minutes

Exchange: RS(T), Class (I/C/S) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/RTTY/digital QSO

Multipliers: States and VE provinces and DXCC countries and (2x class C QSOs) and (5x class S QSOs)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 November 2016

Post log summary at: <http://www.b4h.net/arrlscr/>

Mail logs to: School Club Roundup, c/o LIMARC, PO Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756, USA

Find rules at: [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)

### Telephone Pioneers QSO Party

19:00 UTC 17 October to 03:00 UTC 18 October

Mode: CW/Digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: RS(T) chapter no and name; non-Members: RS(T) and name

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Chapter numbers once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = (CW/Dig QSO points x CW/Dig mults) and (Ph QSO points x Ph mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: December 10, 2016

E-mail logs to: [n6tpjim@gmail.com](mailto:n6tpjim@gmail.com)

Mail logs to: Jim Muiter, 4233 Wooster Ave., San Mateo, CA, 94403, USA

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Find rules at: [www.tpqs.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Announ2016-v1.4.pdf](http://www.tpqs.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Announ2016-v1.4.pdf)

#### Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 October

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 21 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.perluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

#### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 19 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 October

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 22 October 2016

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

#### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 21 October

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

#### NCCC Sprint: 02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 21 October

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### MCG Autumn Sprint

16:00 - 20:00 UTC 21 October

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op All Band – CW, SSB or mixed – low or high;

Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 5 November 2016

E-mail logs to: [ua3r@yandex.ru](mailto:ua3r@yandex.ru)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://mcg-club.ru/en/contests/autumn-sprint.html>

#### UK/EI DX SSB Contest

12:00 UTC 22 October to 12:00 UTC 23 October

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Unconnected - 24 or 12 - QRP, low or high;

Single Op Connected - 24 or 12 - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W

Exchange: UK/EI: RS, serial no and District Code; DX: RS and serial no

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each UK/EI district once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 14:00 UTC 23 October 2016

Upload log at: <http://logs.ukaic.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl?Contest=DX%20SSB%20Contest>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ukaic.com/which-contest/contest-rules/uk-ei-dx-contest>

#### Stew Perry Topband Challenge

15:00 UTC 22 October to 15:00 UTC 23 October

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op Multi-Op

Max operating hours: 14 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5-100 watts; QRP: <5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply

QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: Low power: x 1,5; QRP: x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier

Submit logs by: 7 November 2016

E-mail logs to: [tbd@kkn.net](mailto:tbd@kkn.net)

Mail logs to: BARC, 15125 SE Bartell Rd, Boring, OR 97009, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

#### SA Sprint Contest

20:00 - 24:00 UTC 22 October

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Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op – CW, SSB or mixed – low or high; Novice; YL;

Multi-Op – low or high

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each SA prefix once; Each DXCC country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 28 October 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://sa-sprint.com/submit-log/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://sa-sprint.com/rules/>

## Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 October

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 October

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 October and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 October

UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 26 October

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 October

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 October

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 October

CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, 00:00 UTC 29 October to 24:00 UTC 30 October



# VHF Happenings

## AO-7 Still Going Strong after Almost 42 Years in Space

In a little more than a month, the venerable AO-7 Amateur Radio satellite will mark 42 years in space. AMSAT says AO-7, the oldest ham radio satellite still in operation, is now switching between Mode A and Mode B on a daily basis, after coming up in Mode A on 30 September.

"That suggests that the satellite is now in constant sunlight and receiving enough power from the solar cells for the 24-hour timer to stay on throughout its entire orbit," AMSAT-NA Secretary Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, said. "Expect daily mode switches between Mode A and Mode B to occur for the next 3 months or so. As AO-7's orbit precesses and the periods of constant sunlight become fewer and fewer, there will be less of an opportunity to use Mode A on a yearly basis, so enjoy it while it lasts!"

In Mode A, earthbound amateurs transmit on 2 meters and receive on 10 meters. Stoetzer said the type of 10-meter antenna isn't fussy. "Try whatever you can," he said. When continuously illuminated, AO-7's mode will alternate between Modes A and B (70 centimetres up/2 meters down) every 24 hours.

15 November will mark 42 years since AO-7 was launched into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. AO-7 was the second so-called "Phase 2" Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2-meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7's resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down.

Last February Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Arkansas achieved a distance milestone on AO-7 using Mode B to work Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN (GG66lw), in Brazil -- a path of 8 030.895 kilometres. -- *Thanks to AMSAT-NA, AMSAT News Service*

## Cell Phone Antenna

In a bit of an interesting twist, a Kickstarter effort, goTenna, has built a mesh network hardware add-on to cellular phones so that they can be used in locations where there is no mobile operator infrastructure, for example remote DX locations, Burning Man, or inside a Faraday hangar. It uses Bluetooth to communicate with the cell phones, and it sounds like it has a bit of 'cognitive radio' capability. <http://newatlas.com/gotenna-mesh/45724/>

## ARRL EME Contest

00:00 UTC 22 October to 23:59 UTC  
23 October

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 50 – 1 296 MHz

Classes: (see rules)

Exchange: Signal report

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 100 points per QSO

Multipliers: Each US state, VE province and DXCC country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score =  
total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 21 December 2016

E-mail logs to: [EMEcontest@arrl.org](mailto:EMEcontest@arrl.org)

Mail logs to: EME Contest, ARRL,  
225 Main St., Newington, CT  
06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

# HF Happenings

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter